



Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning Workshop Tracks and Suggested Topics

The Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning aims to increase service and volunteerism across Tennessee and provide opportunities for participants to collaborate to address needs and utilize service as a vehicle for change.

Below is an overview of the different Tracks and some ideas for workshop focus areas.

I. Volunteer Management & Organizational Capacity Building

Sessions primarily for nonprofit organizations that will demonstrate best practices and innovative new methods to grow and strengthen a volunteer program or bolster organizational effectiveness through:

Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Mobilization:

- Connecting with and recruiting volunteers
- Retaining, motivating, developing volunteers
- Inclusive service strategies
- Engaging volunteers of all ages
- Utilizing skilled, professional volunteers
- Service with faith-based communities
- Volunteer recognition
- Tools and technologies for effective volunteer recruitment and management
- Virtual Volunteering

Program Collaboration:

- Connecting volunteer programs to local communities and partnerships
- Strategies to increase and retain corporate volunteers for community development

-Strategies for linking or connecting volunteer opportunities throughout the state as well as locally.

Program Management & Sustainability:

- Leveraging resources
- Funding and/or grant writing
- Building innovative programs that impact communities
- Program measurement/evaluation
- Project management/communication
- Community Outreach/Marketing/Branding

II. Service as a Solution

Identify how service builds and strengthens communities, fostering growth and economic opportunity.

Community Development:

- Bridging the gap between higher education research and community action
- Utilizing the arts for community development
- Mobilizing neighborhoods and communities
- Research analysis of community issues
- Innovative partnerships and collaborations
- Needs present in Tennessee communities and ways service can help. (Examples: Opioid epidemic, COVID-19)

National Service:

Sessions within this track target program staff, volunteers, potential national service participants, and communities impacted by the following national service programs:

- AmeriCorps Seniors
- AmeriCorps State/National/NCCC/VISTA
- Volunteer Generation Fund

Social innovation for business/non-profits:

- Business/non-profit partnerships
- Increasing economic opportunity

III. Service-Learning and Civic Leadership

Demonstrate how to build leadership skills of the service participants. Best practices, innovations of service-learning both in academic settings and in other volunteer programs.

K-12 service-learning, community-based service-learning and/or higher education service-learning:

- Building sustainable community partnerships in service
- Service-learning and education reform
- Using the service-learning methodology to transform volunteers and the community
- Institutionalizing service-learning in schools or organizations
- Social and emotional learning through service
- Student retention and greater educational effectiveness through engagement.

IV. Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium Higher Education Faculty Track- Volunteer Tennessee, in partnership with the Tennessee Service-Learning Consortium (TN-SLC), offers a Higher Education Faculty Track at the Conference.

The TN-SLC is a non-profit membership association of colleges and universities committed to promoting active citizenship as an aim of higher education. Informative presentations from higher education faculty will be reviewed and selected by the TN-SLC review committee.

- Best Practices for Institutionalization of Service-Learning (Partnerships between Academics and Student Affairs, Administrative Support, Institutional Research, etc.)
- Community partnerships (models for)
- Curriculum development
- Course design
- International education
- Discipline-specific or interdisciplinary approaches

V. Student Track

A space for youth from Tennessee to connect over volunteerism, service-learning, and community engagement. For this track, there is the option to submit either a thirty minute session or a fifty minute session.

Student Track Seeking engaging workshops led by middle, high school, or college students, which will be presented specifically for student participants. Non-student presenters can also submit sessions that would be of relevance to student attendees. These will be reviewed and selected by the Student Track Planning Committee.